all State Governments and Union Terri tory Administrations have abolished tuition fee in Government Schools upto upper primary level. Education in schools run by local bodies and private aided institutions is mostly fiee in the States/UTs. However, private unaided schools which constitute 3.7 percent of the tot;U elementary education schools in the country, do charge fee. Beyond elementary stage, the position diffcts from stfte to state. Some States, UTs haye extended this facility *to* girls studying in SecondaryjSenior Secondary stage also.

Nou-Fonnal Education Programme

1631. SHRI IQBAL .SlNGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pteSSKl to state!

(a) wl ether it is a fact that the non-farrnal education programme is being revamped to enable drop outs and work-ing children to receive basic elemental y education outside the forma! educational system ia the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof in this respect; *'j0*

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the pr&grttatae will focus only on girls; :

(0) if so, whether the programme is operational in ai! the States if nol, *the* jeasons therefor?

THH DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE Ml-ffSTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDU-(A ION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (K'UMARI SELLA): (a) Ths programme of non-formal education '>'i; been recently revised and revamped for implementation, in the VlUth plan.

'(b) Under the revised scheme, the cost par-meters from the centre level on-'mcluding honorarium to NFE fuhctjbnirtw have been enhanced sub-dry. Moreover, the share of centra! assistance to StatesjUTs for co-cduca-"tional NFE centres and administrative' and resource support has been raised from' 50 per cent to 60 per cent. The percentage of girls 'centres has been in-creased from 25 per cent to 40 per cent. The revised scheme als_0 lays emphasis on strengthening training of NFE functionaries and ihe monitcrin.* system, development of good quality teaching/ learing material, enlisting community participation, promoting greater flexibility in implementation, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. The programme lays special emphasis on girls education. However, all children, both non-starters and school drop-outs in the age group -14 could avail of the benefits of ths scheme.

(e) No, Sir. The programme is in operation in 20 StatesjUTs. The re-ing States/UTs have not come forward with their proposals within tfie frame work of the scheme.

Japinese aid to BarkatuUah University in Bhopal

1632. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minuter of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State;

(a) whether the BarkatuUah University of Bhopal is the only one selected from Madhya Pradesh for special Japanese aid to strengthen environmental studies;

(b) if so, whether the amount will be routed through the University Grants Commission (UGC);

(c) what is the total aid to be provided to the said University; and

(d) whether any concrete proposals/ mediations in this regard have been prepared by the University with details thereof?

j THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE j MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE j| DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDU-| CATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA); (a) to (d) The in-formation i_s being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.